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HERCULES



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HERCULES' CHOICE

"I AM PLEASURE," QUOTH THE SMILING DAMSEL, "AND I HAVE MANY GIFTS FOR YOU." HERCULES LOOKED AT THIS TEMPTRESS AND HIS EYES WERE PLEASED IN WHAT THEY SAW. "I AM DUTY!" SPAKE HER UNSMILING SISTER. "CHOOSE ME AND YOU SHALL BE EVER ACQUAINTED WITH HARDSHIP AND PAIN."



HE PAUSED BUT A MOMENT... BUT DURING THIS MOMENT, ON MOUNT OLYMPUS, ZEUS AWAITED HIS ANSWER... AFRAID HIS HALF-MORTAL SON WOULD TAKE PLEASURE'S PATH! AND HERA, ZEUS' QUEEN ON OLYMPUS, GLOATED, SURE THE EARTH-BOUND GIANT WOULD AT LAST SHOW MORTAL WEAKNESS!



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AFTER HERCULES TRIUMPHED IN THE LAND OF THE AMAZONS, ZEUS AND THE OTHER GODS AVOIDED HERA WHO WAS SO SORELY DISPLEASED BY THE MAN-GOD'S MIGHTY DEEDS. ONLY MARS WHO HAD BEEN AWAY TO WAR WAS UNAWARE OF HER BAD TEMPER. UNTIL...

NOT EVEN ZEUS CAN SHIELD HIM FROM MY WRATH MUCH LONGER!

YOU TOO ARE IN ILL HUMOR, O QUEEN HERA?



THAT ACCURSED SON OF ZEUS, HERCULES! HE JOINED WITH ALEXANDER TO DEFEAT THE CORINTHIANS! THAT WAR COULD'VE DRAGGED ON FOR DECADES!

CURSE HIM, I SAY!



THERE WAS A MOST NOBLE WAR IN PROGRESS, CITIES WERE RAZED AND ARMIES WIPED OUT, IT WAS STIMULATING.

WHAT STOPPED THEM, MARS, GOD OF WAR?



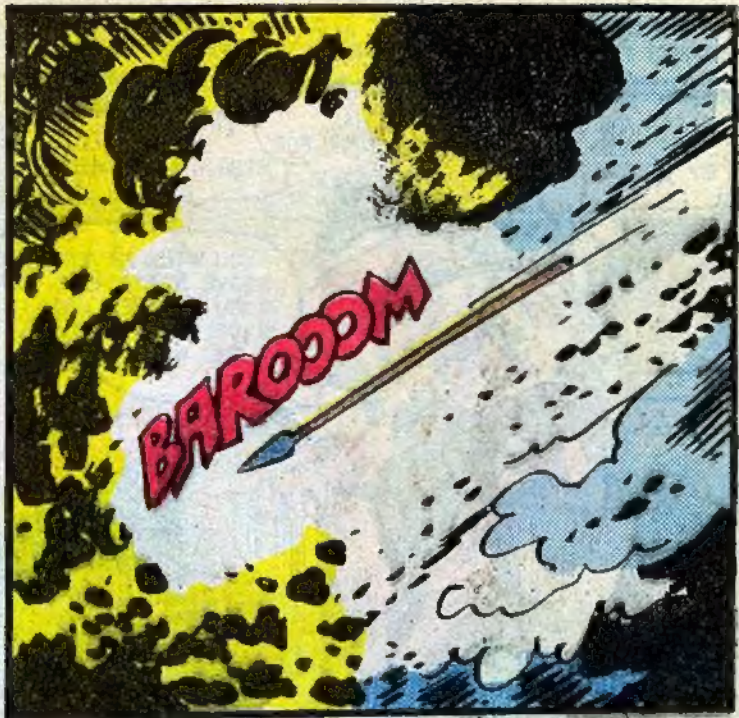
ON EARTH, THE MAN-GOD, HERCULES, HAD NOT DECIDED BETWEEN PLEASURE AND DUTY. HE SOUGHT A QUIET HILLSIDE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

I AM THE MIGHTIEST MAN ON EARTH. CAN I NOT FIND PLEASURE IN THAT? IS IT WORTH THE EFFORT TO GAIN ADMISSION TO MOUNT OLYMPUS, TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE GODS?





IT IS PLEASANT HERE. I WILL SLEEP A LITTLE AND WHEN I AWAKEN I WILL KNOW WHICH PATH TO CHOOSE!



BARODOOM



HOW DID HE KNOW MY THOUGHTS?



FATHER ZEUS, I DID NOT CHOOSE THE PATH TO PLEASURE... I WAS MERELY THINKING ABOUT THE OFFER!

ONCE MORE, HERCULES IS AT THE CROSSROADS. PLEASURE BECKONS, DUTY STERNLY SHOWS HIM THE ROCKY ROAD WHICH HE MUST FOLLOW...



YOU MUST SERVE YOUR FELLOW MAN, TOIL MIGHTILY, AND NEVER REST. CHOOSE!
SERVICE TO MANKIND

I DO NOT HESITATE. I CHOOSE THE PATH OF DUTY.

THE COUSIN ON HIS MOTHER'S SIDE OF HERCULES, KING EURYSTHEUS, SITS ALONG THIS ROCKY ROAD. HE HAS YET ANOTHER TASK FOR THE HALF MORTAL WHO YEARNS TO SIT WITH THE GODS ON MOUNT OLYMPUS.

HERA, QUEEN OF THE GODS, HAS SUGGESTED AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK FOR MY UPSTART COUSIN.

HAIL, KING, EURYSTHEUS.

YOU WILL NEVER RISE ABOVE MORTALITY, HERCULES, THOU SLOTHFUL GIANT. YOU HAVE TARRIED ALONG THE WAY.

SET THE NEXT TASK, COUSIN EURYSTHEUS, AND CEASE THY CARPING OR I SHALL UNSEAT YOU.

DO NOT BULLY ME, GIANT. THIS TASK WILL BE YOUR UNDOING.

MARS, THE GOD OF WAR, KEEPS A FLOCK OF TERRIBLE BIRDS ON A LAKE IN ARCADIA AT A PLACE CALLED STYMPHALUS. YOUR TASK IS SIMPLE. DESTROY THESE BIRDS.

BUT... BUT MARS IS THE GOD OF WAR! HE...

THAT IS YOUR TASK. ACCOMPLISH IT... OR RESIGN YOURSELF TO LIVING YOUR LIFE HERE ON EARTH LIKE THE REST OF US MORTALS!

MARS IS THE GOD OF WAR! IF HE IS ANGERED, EURYSTHEUS, HIS DOGS OF WAR WILL COURSE ACROSS THE WORLD... HIS VULTURES WILL DARKEN THE SKY... AND HIS TORCH AND SPEAR CAN LAY WASTE TO THE WORLD!

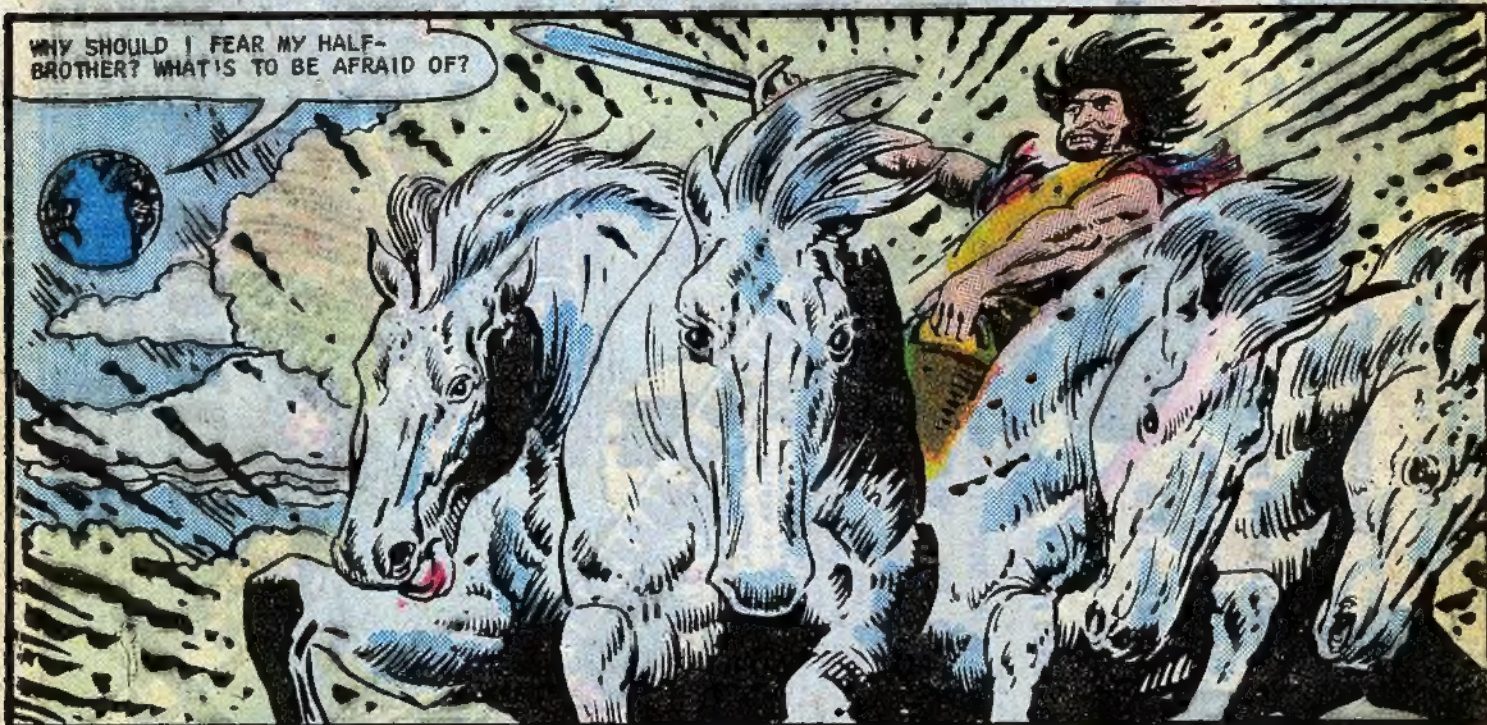


THEN, YOU AT LAST FACE DEFEAT, HERCULES! YOU DECLINE THIS FEAT?

JEST NOT, COUSIN! I, HERCULES, SON OF JUPITER, HAVE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED FEAR!



WHY SHOULD I FEAR MY HALF-BROTHER? WHAT IS TO BE AFRAID OF?

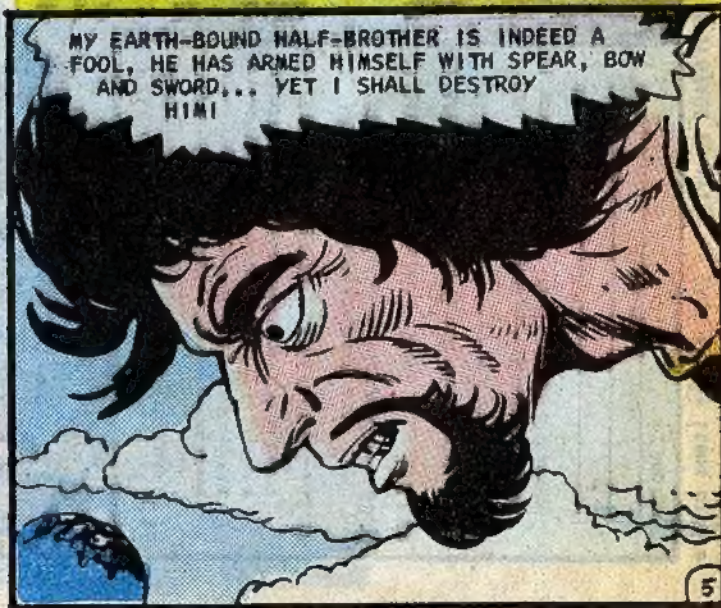


I WILL SEEK THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS AND I WILL DESTROY THEM.



BUT AS HERCULES BRAVELY BEGINS HIS JOURNEY TO ARCADIA, ON MOUNT OLYMPUS MARS, THE GOD OF WAR, LAUGHS AT HIS TENERITY.

MY EARTH-BOUND HALF-BROTHER IS INDEED A FOOL, HE HAS ARMED HIMSELF WITH SPEAR, BOW AND SWORD... YET I SHALL DESTROY HIM!



POOR HERCULES! HERA, THE WIFE OF ZEUS IS HIS ENEMY AND NOW SHE HAS TURNED MARS AGAINST HIM TOO!

MINERVA THINKS KINDLY OF HERCULES. I WILL TELL HER OF THIS.



WHY DOES THE GODDESS OF LOVE SEEK THE GODDESS OF WISDOM, APHRODITE?

OH, MINERVA, HERCULES IS IN TROUBLE AGAIN!

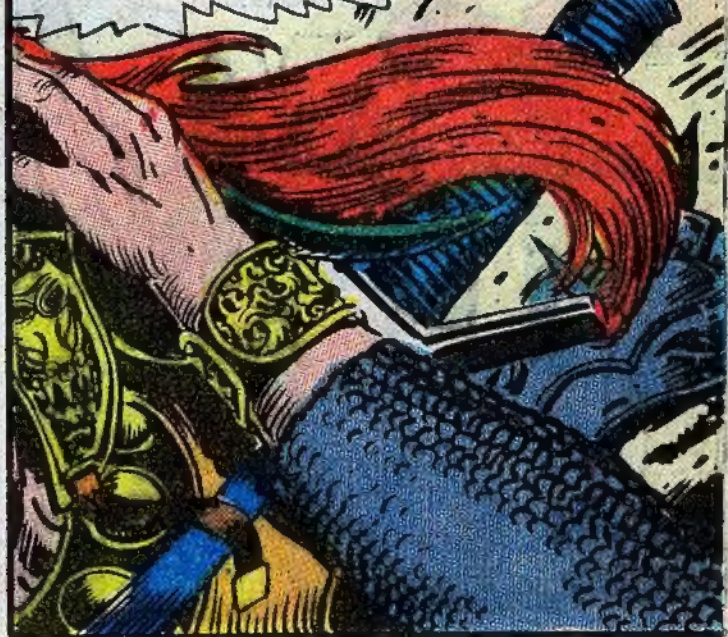


AND WHILE APHRODITE TAKES COUNCIL WITH MINERVA, THE MIGHTY GOD OF WAR PREPARES TO END THIS QUEST OF HERCULES!



HE IS APPROACHING ARCADIA! HE DARES TO ATTACK THAT WHICH HE KNOWS IS MINE... I SHALL DESTROY HIM!

FOR DEFENDING MY STYMPHALIAN BIRDS, EVEN ZEUS CANNOT FAULT ME!



THIS IS ARCADIA AND THERE IN THE SKY ARE BIRDS. THESE MUST BE THE FLOCK OF MARS, MY HALF-BROTHER.



IS IT RIGHT FOR ME TO DO THIS? THE OTHER DEEDS WERE FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND, WHAT HARM CAN THESE BIRDS DO TO MEN?



JOURNEY'S END AT THE LAKE NEAR THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF STYMPHALUS. THE DANCING WATERS AND THE TRANQUIL CITY BLEAMING IN THE SUN WERE A DELIGHT TO THE EYE OF HERCULES...

ALL IS SERENE HERE... AND UP THERE THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS SOAR, BEAUTIFUL AND HARMFUL TO NO ONE!

WHAT SHALL I DO?



I WILL SPEAK WITH THE HOUSEHOLDER.

HELLO, THE HOUSE! COME FORTH AND CONVERSE WITH HERCULES.



IT IS A FINE DWELLING AND YET NO ONE LIVES THERE. THIS IS STRANGE.

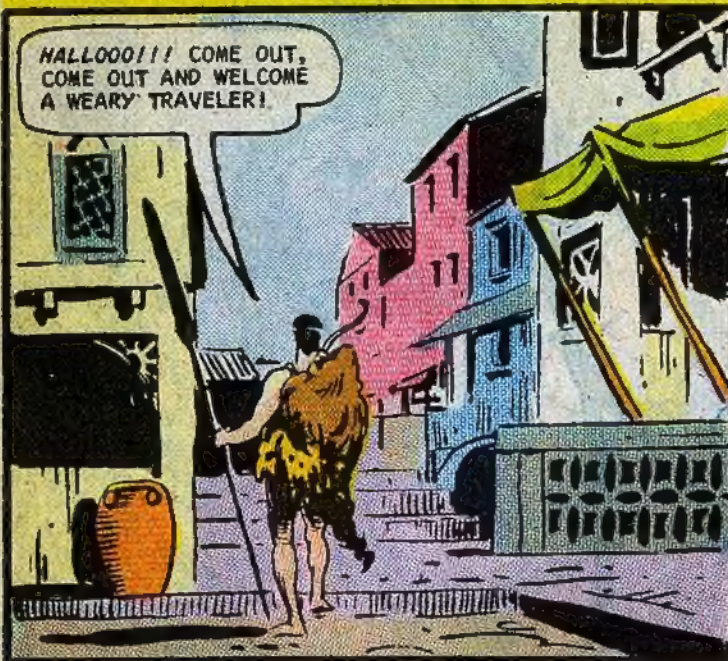


IN STYMPHALUS, THEY WILL TELL ME OF THE BIRDS.



BUT THERE IS NO ONE TO QUESTION. IT IS AN EMPTY CITY.

HALLOOO!!! COME OUT,
COME OUT AND WELCOME
A WEARY TRAVELER!



WHERE IS EVERYONE?

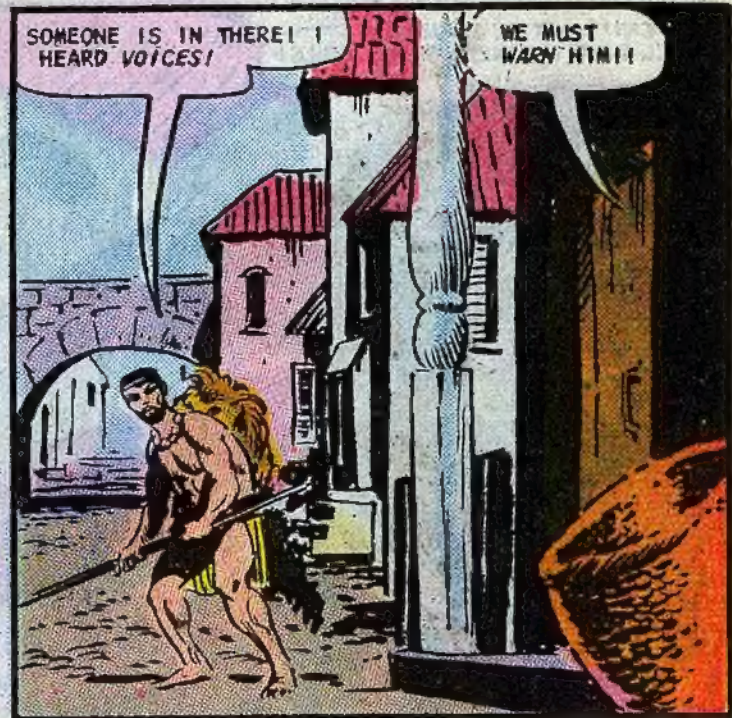


MY PETS NEED ME NOT! THEY WILL DEAL WITH
HERCULES IN THEIR OWN SPECIAL WAY! THEIR
OWN SPECIAL WAY. HAHAHAAAA.



SOMEONE IS IN THERE! I
HEARD VOICES!

WE MUST
WARN HIM!!

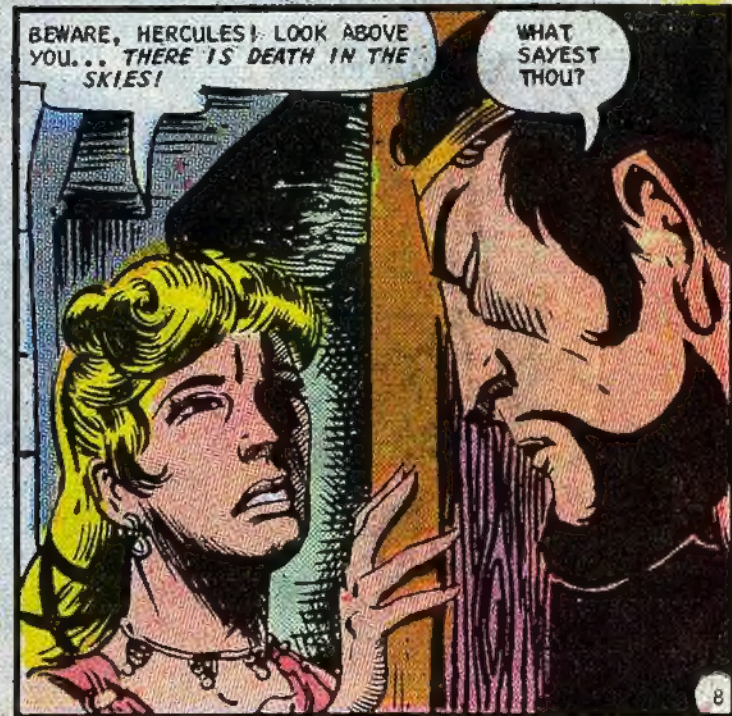


THEY WILL GET HIM JUST AS THEY DID
THE OTHERS! I MUST TELL HIM... EVEN IF
I DIE FOR IT!



BEWARE, HERCULES! LOOK ABOVE
YOU... THERE IS DEATH IN THE
SKIES!

WHAT
SAYEST
THOU?



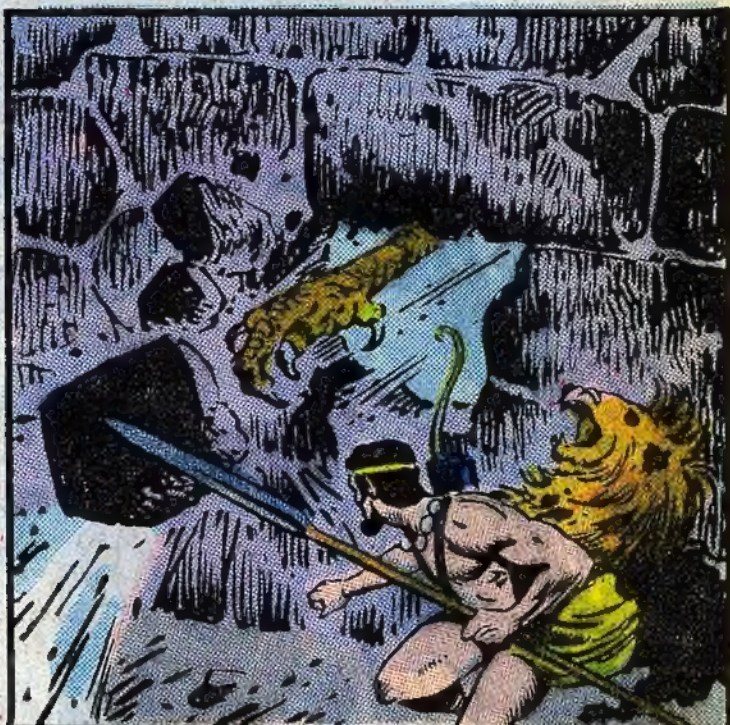
FIND SHELTER! IT WILL TEAR YOU TO
PIECES AND DEVOUR YOU!



I HAVE FOUND THE
STYMPHALIAN BIRDS!

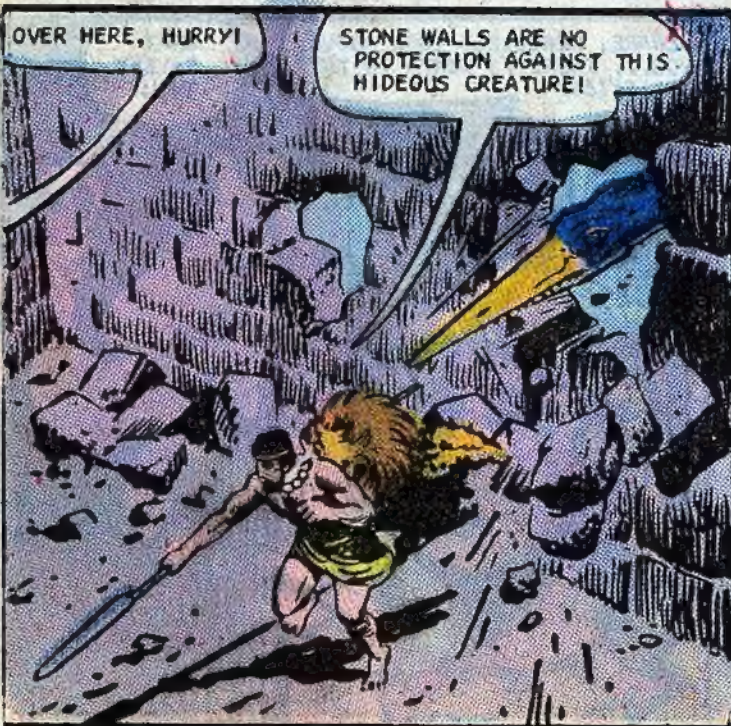


IT CAN'T GET AT ME NOW,
SHELTERED BY THESE STONE WALLS!



OVER HERE, HURRY!

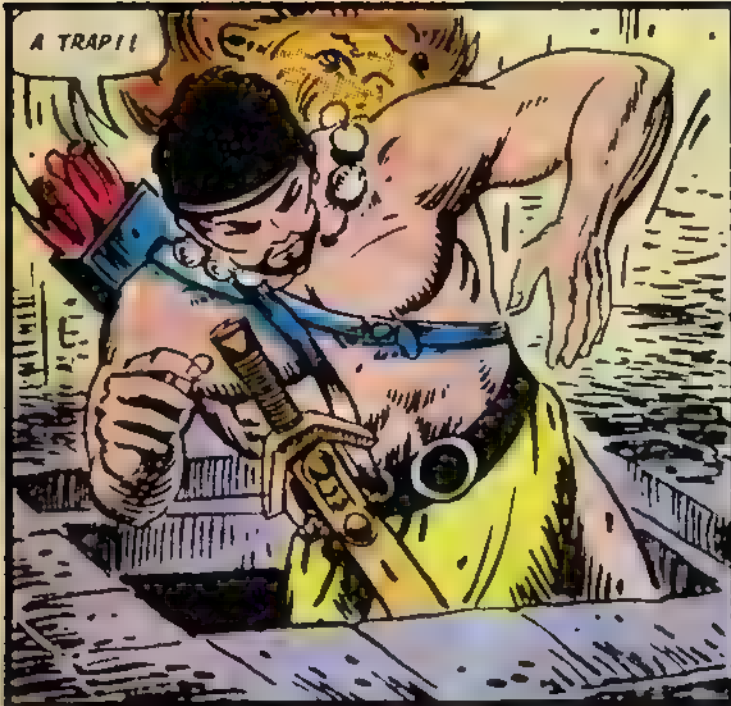
STONE WALLS ARE NO
PROTECTION AGAINST THIS
HIDEOUS CREATURE!



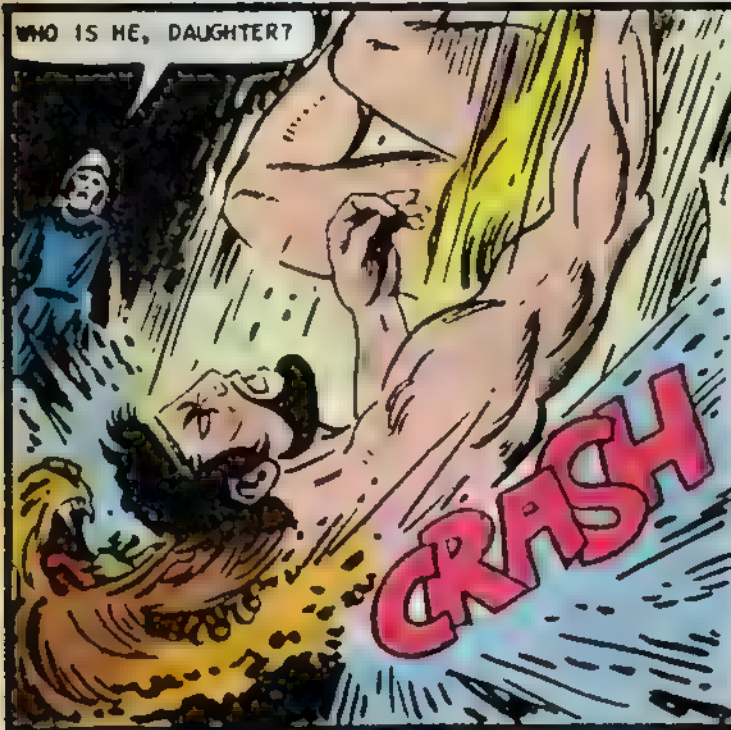
WHO SPOKE?
I CANNOT SEE.

QUICKLY BEFORE THOSE
BRAZEN TALONS LOCK AROUND
YOUR BODY!





A TRAP!!

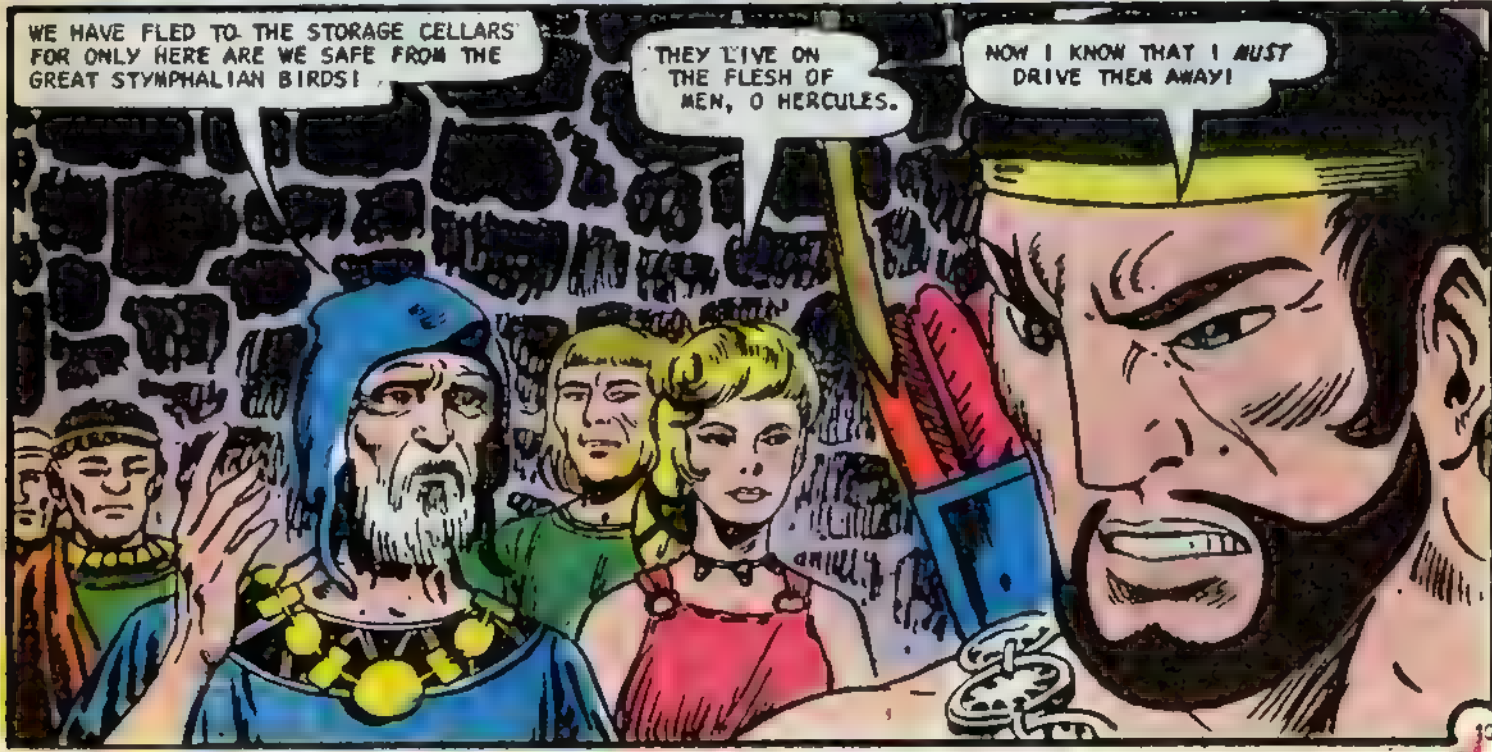


WHO IS HE, DAUGHTER?



THERE WASN'T TIME TO BRING YOU DOWN THE STEPS! ARE YOU INJURED MIGHTY STRANGER?

I AM HERCULES AND I DO NOT BRUISE EASILY. YOU SAVED MY LIFE, FAIR LADY.



WE HAVE FLED TO THE STORAGE CELLARS FOR ONLY HERE ARE WE SAFE FROM THE GREAT STYMPHALIAN BIRDS!

THEY LIVE ON THE FLESH OF MEN, O HERCULES.

NOW I KNOW THAT I MUST DRIVE THEM AWAY!

THE MIGHTY MAN-GOD TAKES HIS SPEAR AND RETURNS TO THE DAYLIGHT WORLD... DETERMINED NOW TO DESTROY THE VICIOUS BIRDS OF MARS, THE GOD OF WAR!



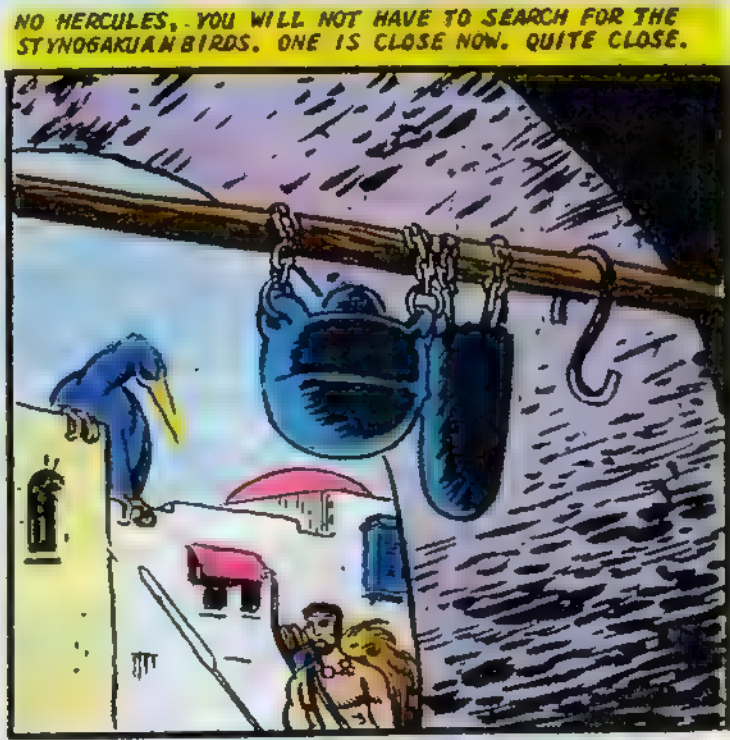
MY HALF-BROTHER CARES NOT FOR THE FATE OF MORTAL MEN! HE MUST LEARN TO KEEP HIS BLOOD-THIRSTY PETS IN A PLACE WHERE THEY WILL NOT PREY ON PEOPLE.



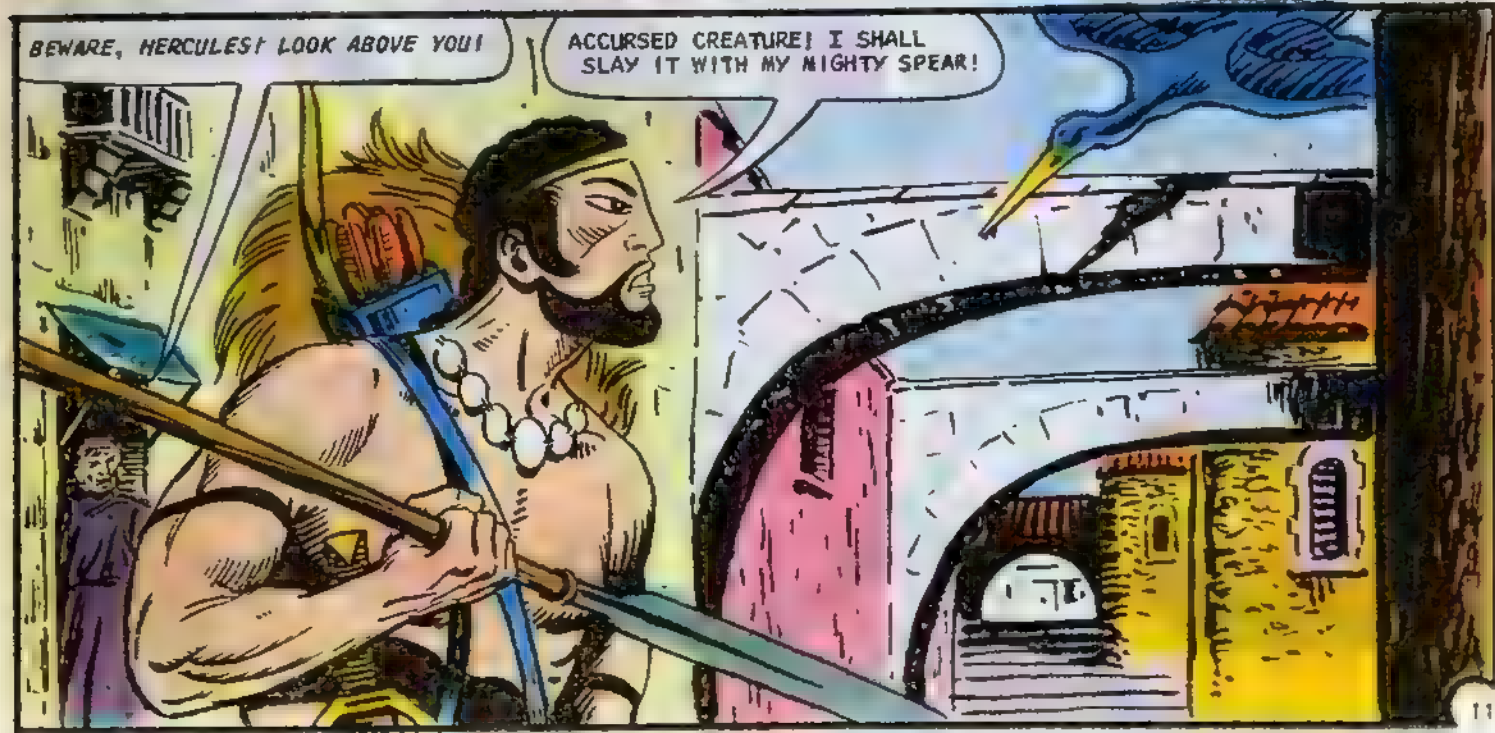
THEY'VE FLOWN AWAY!



I'LL HAVE TO SEEK THEM OUT!

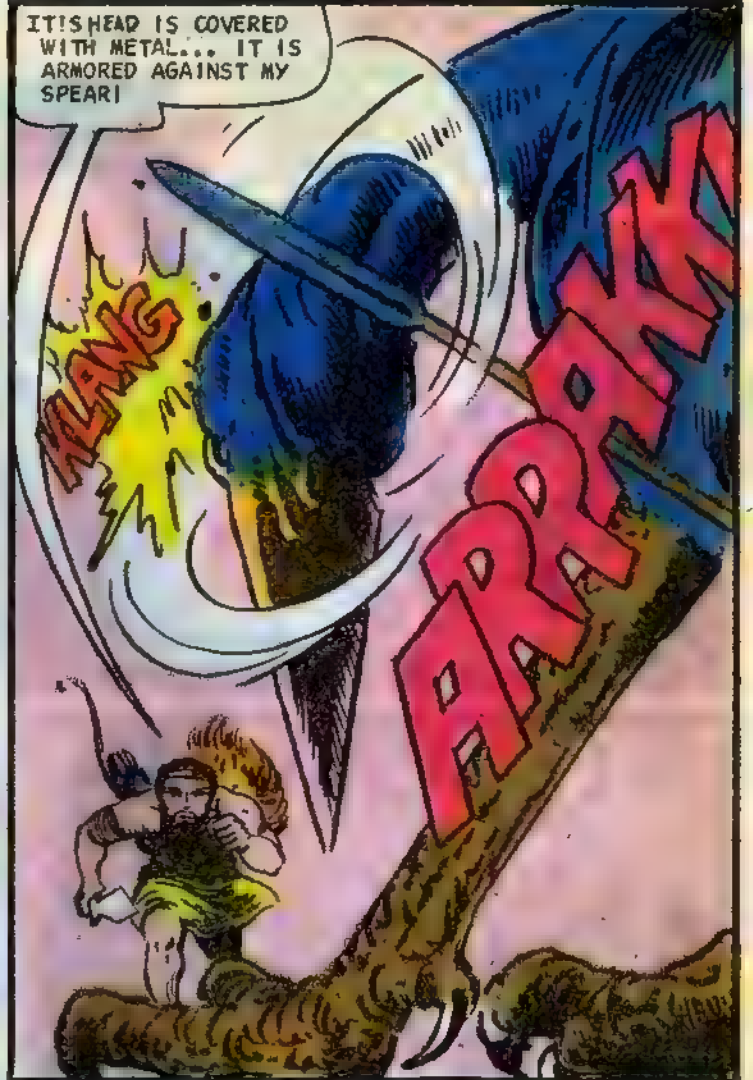


NO HERCULES, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE STYNOGAKUAN BIRDS. ONE IS CLOSE NOW. QUITE CLOSE.



BEWARE, HERCULES! LOOK ABOVE YOU!

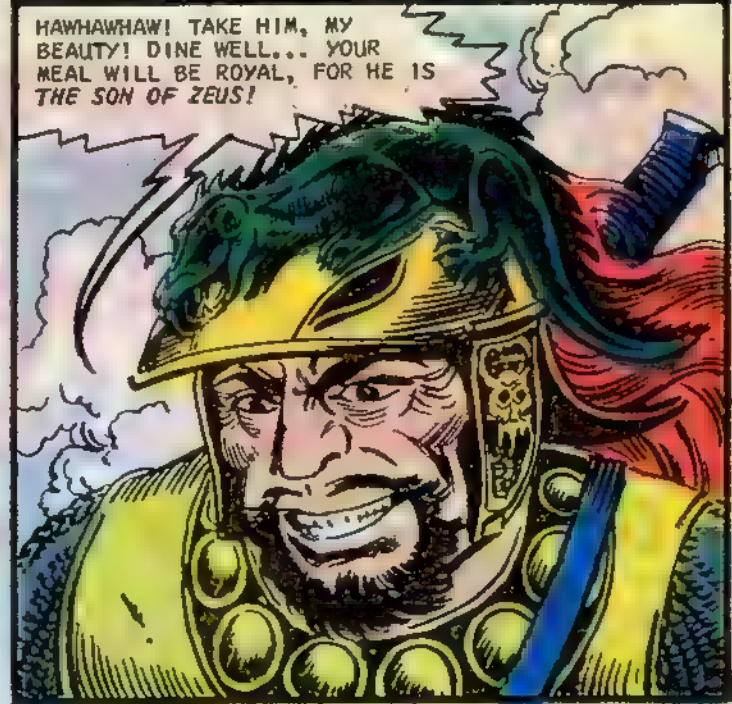
ACCURSED CREATURE! I SHALL SLAY IT WITH MY MIGHTY SPEAR!



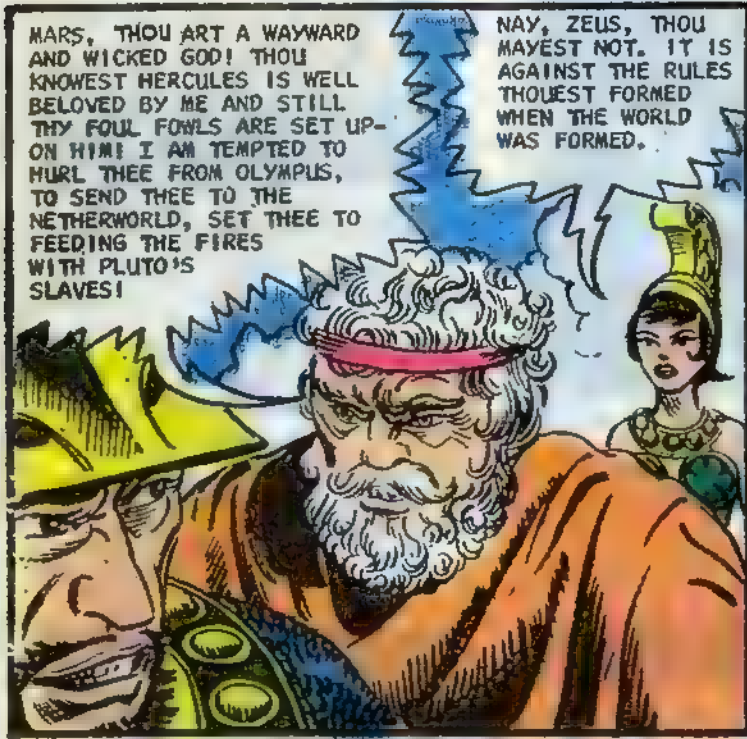


WHAT CAN I USE? AM I TO PERISH HERE, FOOD FOR THIS MONSTROUS VULTURE?

I WILL NOT CRY OUT TO MY FATHER, ZEUS! I MUST FIND MY OWN SALVATION!



HAWHAWHAW! TAKE HIM, MY BEAUTY! DINE WELL... YOUR MEAL WILL BE ROYAL, FOR HE IS THE SON OF ZEUS!



MARS, THOU ART A WAYWARD AND WICKED GOD! THOU KNOWEST HERCULES IS WELL BELOVED BY ME AND STILL THY FOUL FOWLS ARE SET UP-ON HIM! I AM TEMPTED TO HURL THEE FROM OLYMPUS, TO SEND THEE TO THE NETHERWORLD, SET THEE TO FEEDING THE FIRES WITH PLUTO'S SLAVES!

NAY, ZEUS, THOU MAYEST NOT. IT IS AGAINST THE RULES THOU'EST FORMED WHEN THE WORLD WAS FORMED.



WHAT WEAPON IS LEFT? THE CREATURE IS ARMORED LIKE MARS HIMSELF. THERE IS A WEAPON!

AM I NOT THE STRONGEST MORTAL TO EVER TROD THE EARTH?

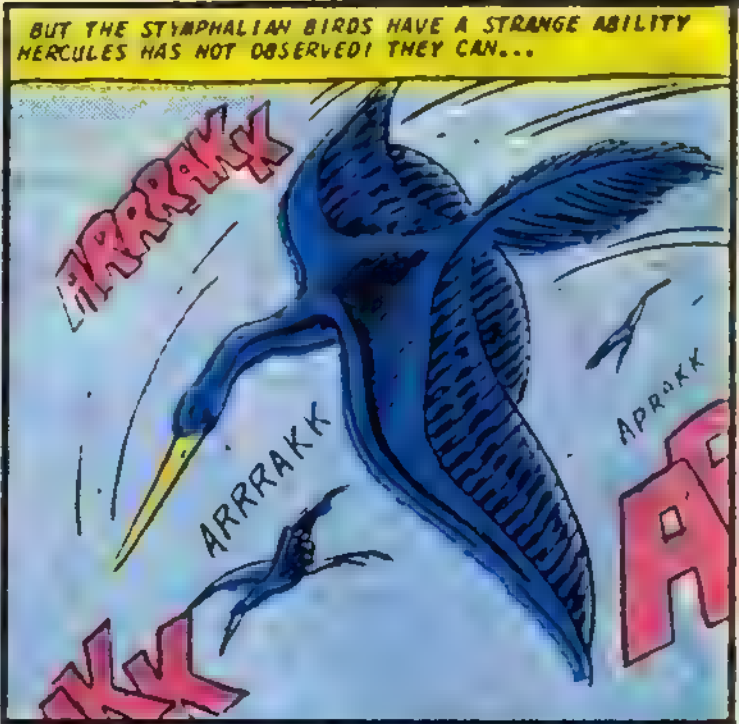
THE HUGE TIMBER LYING UNDER HERCULES' HAND IS HIS WEAPON... HE SWINGS IT AS AN ORDINARY MAN WOULD A CANE... AND THE STYMPHLIAN BIRD OF PREY CRUMPLES ITS NECK BROKEN BY THE BLOW!





BEWARE, HERCULES! ONE OF THEM IS COMING TO ATTACK!

BAH! THEY DARE NOT APPROACH LEST I BEAT THEM TO THE GROUND!



BUT THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS HAVE A STRANGE ABILITY HERCULES HAS NOT OBSERVED! THEY CAN...

... TURN THEIR FEATHERS INTO METALLIC ARROWS.... WHICH FALL AS A DEADLY RAIN UPON A VICTIM!



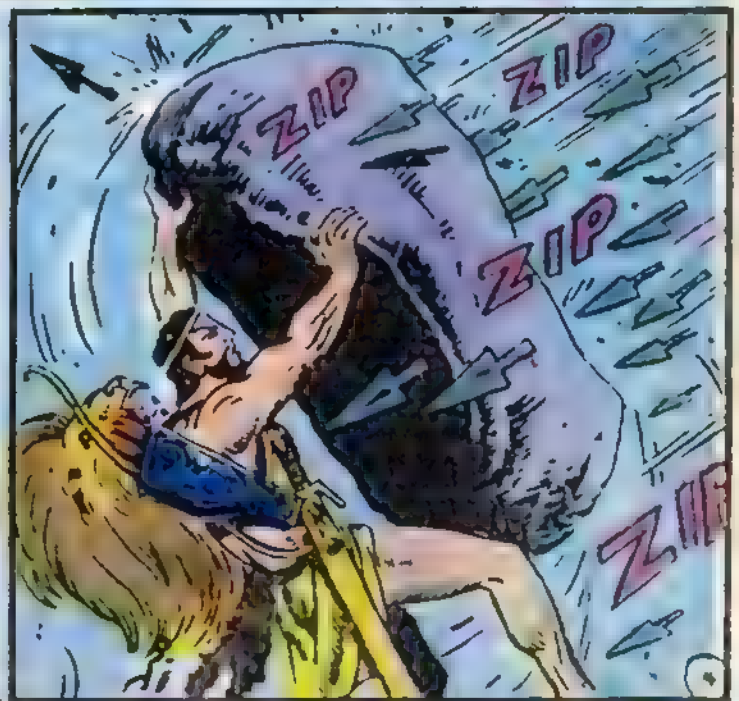
ZEUS HELP ME NOW!

THUP THUP THUP THUP

THUP



I HAVE A SPLIT SECOND OF LIFE LEFT...



ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

SUDDENLY, HERCULES REALIZES HE HAS A WEAPON... THE BOW FORGED FOR HIM BY HIS HALF-BROTHER, VULCAN, ARMORER TO THE GODS



IT FLEW AWAY!

TWANG



CURSE THEM, CURSE THEM THRICE! THEY ARE BEYOND THE RANGE OF EVEN MY GODLY BOW!



MIGHTY HERCULES, THOU HAS BANISHED THE WINGED CURSE FROM OUR SKIES!

BE NOT DECEIVED, SAMANTHA! THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS ARE OUT THERE ON THE WATER... ALIVE AND GREEDY AS EVER, AN EVER-PRESENT DANGER TO ALL MANKIND.

IS... IS IT SAFE?



THEY WAIT NOW, PATIENT AS PLUTO OF THE NETHERWORLD FOR THEY KNOW THAT SOON I MUST LEAVE FAIR ARCADIA.

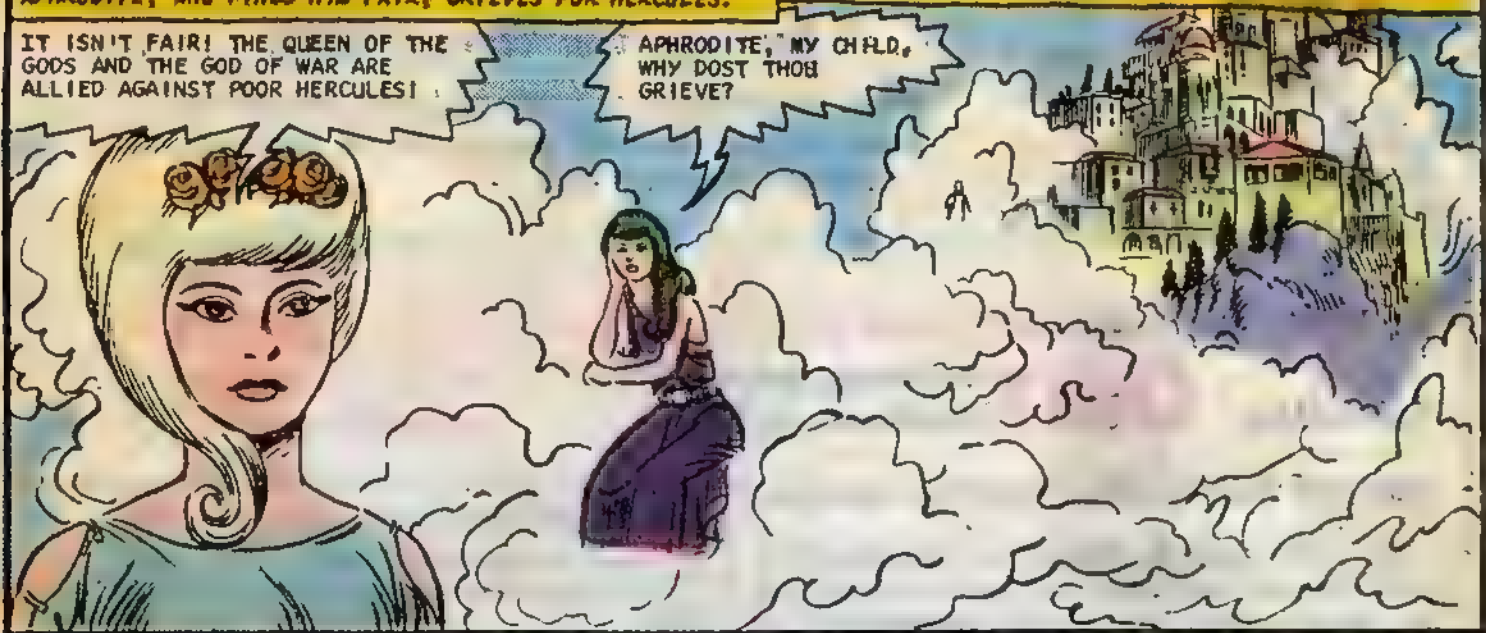


I AM CONDEMNED TO MERE MORTALITY BY THOSE ACCURSED MAN-EATING BIRDS. HERA WILL REJOICE AND WITH HER MY HALF-BROTHER, MARS, FOR THEY HATE ME WELL!

HERA'S LAUGH ECHOES ACROSS MOUNT OLYMPUS AS SHE WATCHED THE WOES OF HERCULES. MARS' BOOMING OFFAN THUNDERS AMONG THE PEAKS... BUT THERE IS ONE OF THE GODS WHO DOES NOT ENJOY THE MAN-GOD'S PLIGHT. APHRODITE, WHO FINDS HIM FAIR, GRIEVES FOR HERCULES.

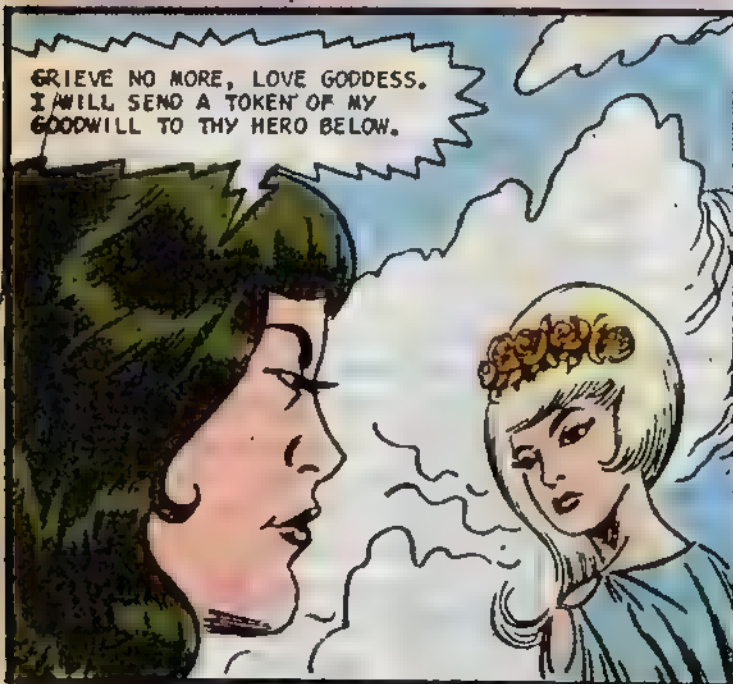
IT ISN'T FAIR! THE QUEEN OF THE GODS AND THE GOD OF WAR ARE ALLIED AGAINST POOR HERCULES!

APHRODITE, MY CHILD, WHY DOST THOU GRIEVE?

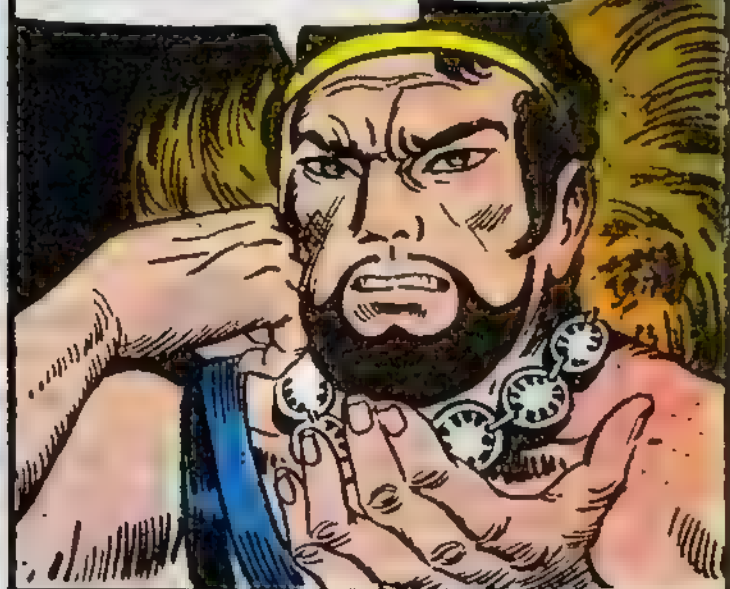


IT TAKES BUT A MOMENT TO BABBLE THE TALE AND THEN...

GRIEVE NO MORE, LOVE GODDESS. I WILL SEND A TOKEN OF MY GOODWILL TO THY HERO BELOW.



I CAN DO NAUGHT! MY ARROWS WOULD DESTROY THOSE EVIL BIRDS IF THEY WERE WITHIN RANGE... BUT THEY NEST OUT THERE FAR FROM LAND WHERE I CANNOT GO! IF ONLY I COULD BRING THEM HITHER!



THE GODS HAVE FORSAKEN ME! I AM ALONE W!... WHAT IS THIS? A TOKEN FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS PERHAPS?

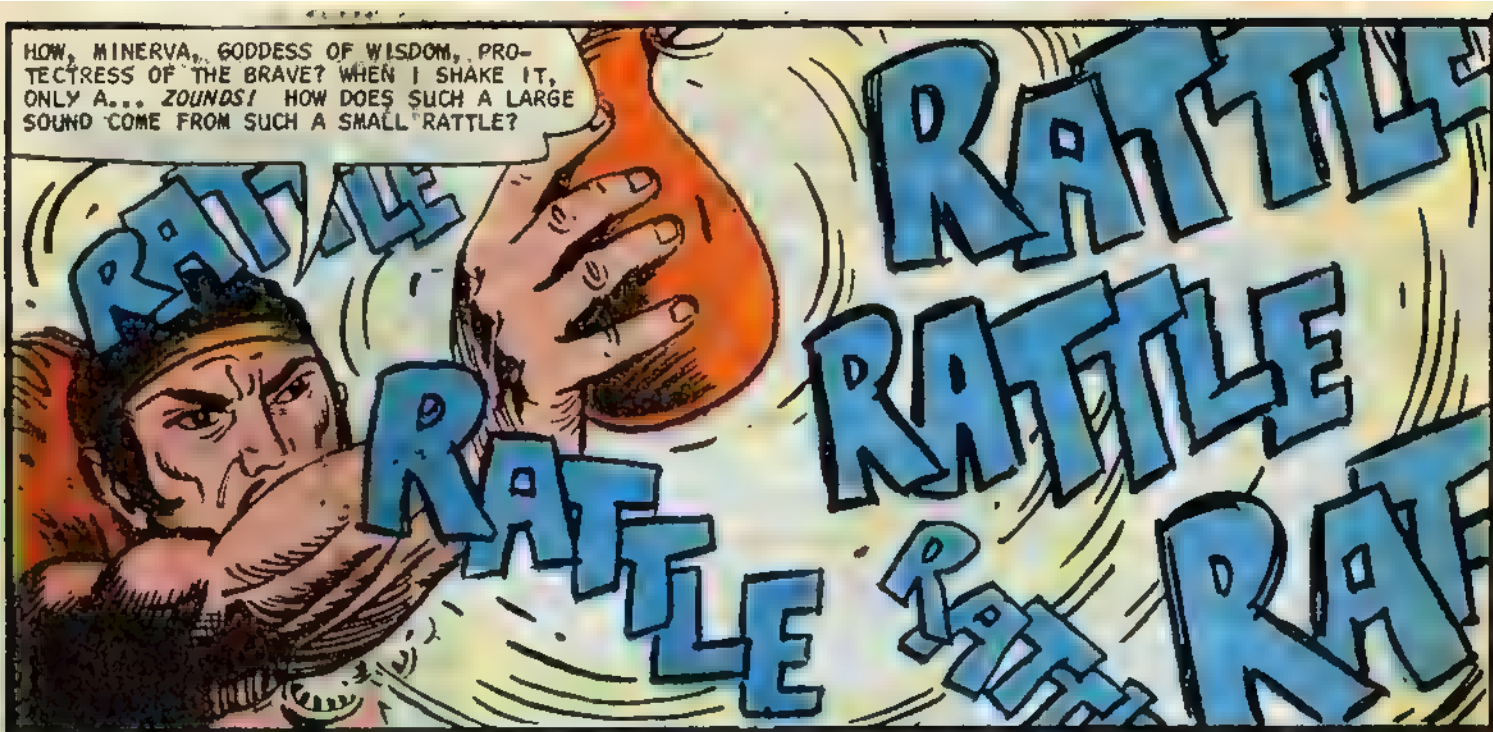


IT... IT IS A CHILD'S TOY! A SILLY LITTLE RATTLE SUCH AS BABIES ARE GIVEN TO QUIET THEM!

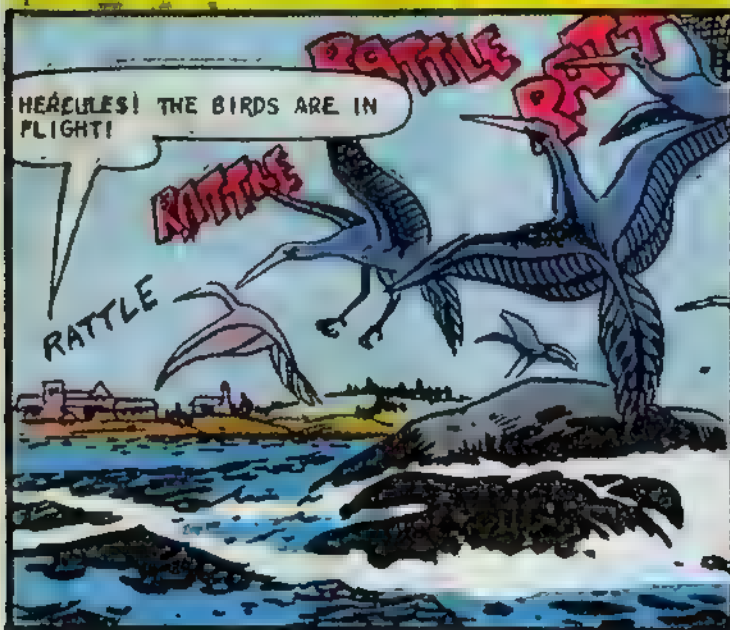
SCORN IT NOT, HERCULES. IT HOLDS THE ANSWER TO YOUR WOE!



HOW, MINERVA, GODDESS OF WISDOM, PROTECTRESS OF THE BRAVE? WHEN I SHAKE IT, ONLY A... SOUND! HOW DOES SUCH A LARGE SOUND COME FROM SUCH A SMALL RATTLE?



THE RATTLE POSSESSES MAGIC! A STORM OF SOUND SMASHES ACROSS THE WATERS... THE ROOSTING STYMPHALIAN BIRDS LEAP INTO THE AIR, FRIGHTENED BY THE HIDEOUS SCAEPHONY!



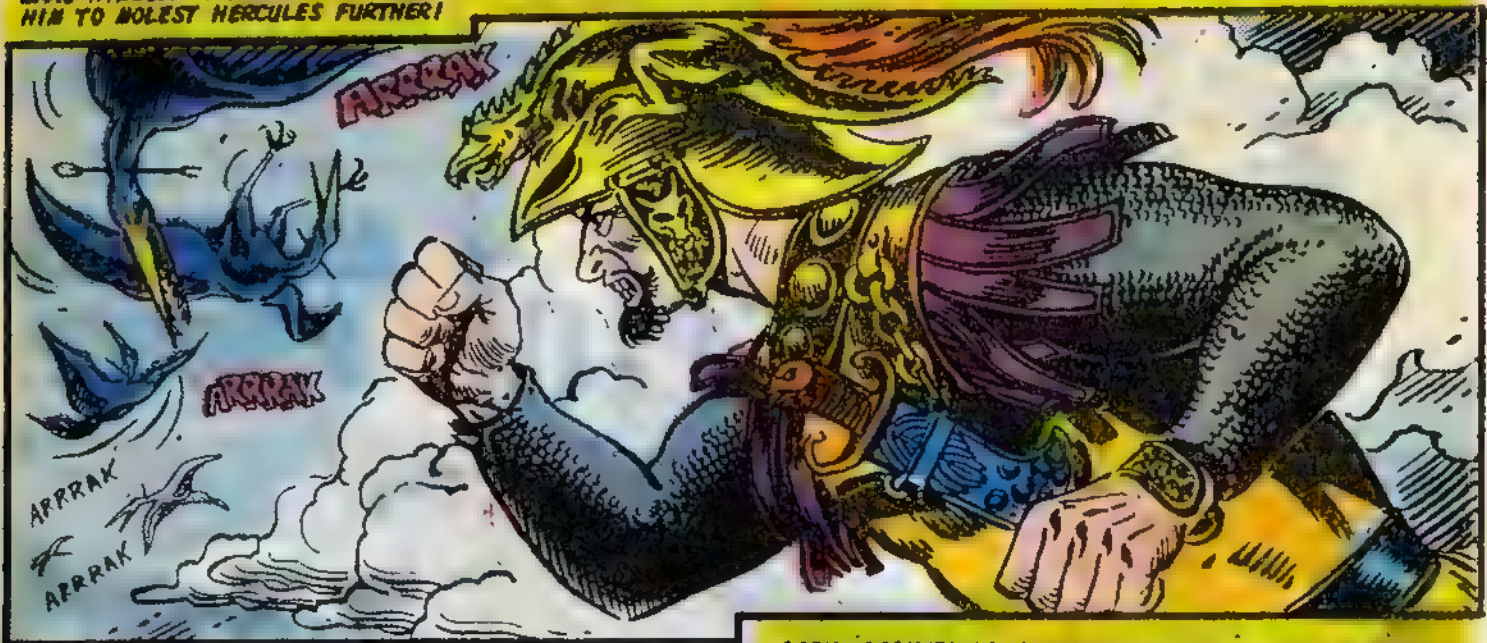
KEEP SHAKING MINERVA'S RATTLE... THE BIRDS ARE STUNNED... THEY FLY RIGHT TO ME!



SUDDENLY, THE MONSTROUS FOWL ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY AS HERCULES' ARROWS FIND THEIR MARKS!



MARS HIMSELF WITNESSES THE DEATH OF HIS DEADLY FLOCK... BUT HE HAS INTERFERED EARLIER AND ZEUS HAS FORBIDDEN HIM TO MOLEST HERCULES FURTHER!



BACK, BACK TO KING EURYSTHEUS TO REPORT YET ANOTHER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED... WHILE, ON OLYMPUS, ZEUS REJOICETH AND BROODS A FEAST PREPARED TO WHICH HE SUMMONS...



HERCULES, REMAIN WITH US HERE IN FAIR ARCADIA. I LOVESTH THEE WELL AND I WOULD DO AUGHT TO MAKE THEE HAPPY.

I FIND THEE FAIR, GENTLE MAIDEN, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN THE STERN PATH OF DUTY AND I MUST FORSAKE THE PLEASURES ORDINARY MEN FIND ON THEIR ROAD THROUGH LIFE.



QUEEN HERA! MARS! JOIN ME! WE HAVE A TASTY TREAT WORTHY OF THE GODS.

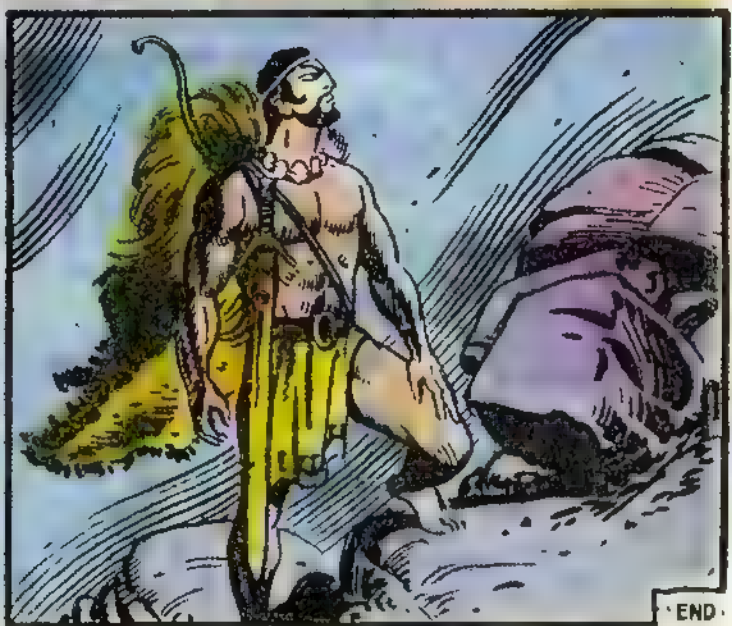


THIS IS A RARE SPECIES FOUND ONLY ON A LAKE NEAR STYMPHALUS! MY SON, HERCULES, SLEW IT AND THE CHEF...

I BEG OF YOU, MIGHTY ZEUS, EXCUSE ME. I AM SOMEWHAT ILL.

AND I AM ABSOLUTELY NAUSEATED!

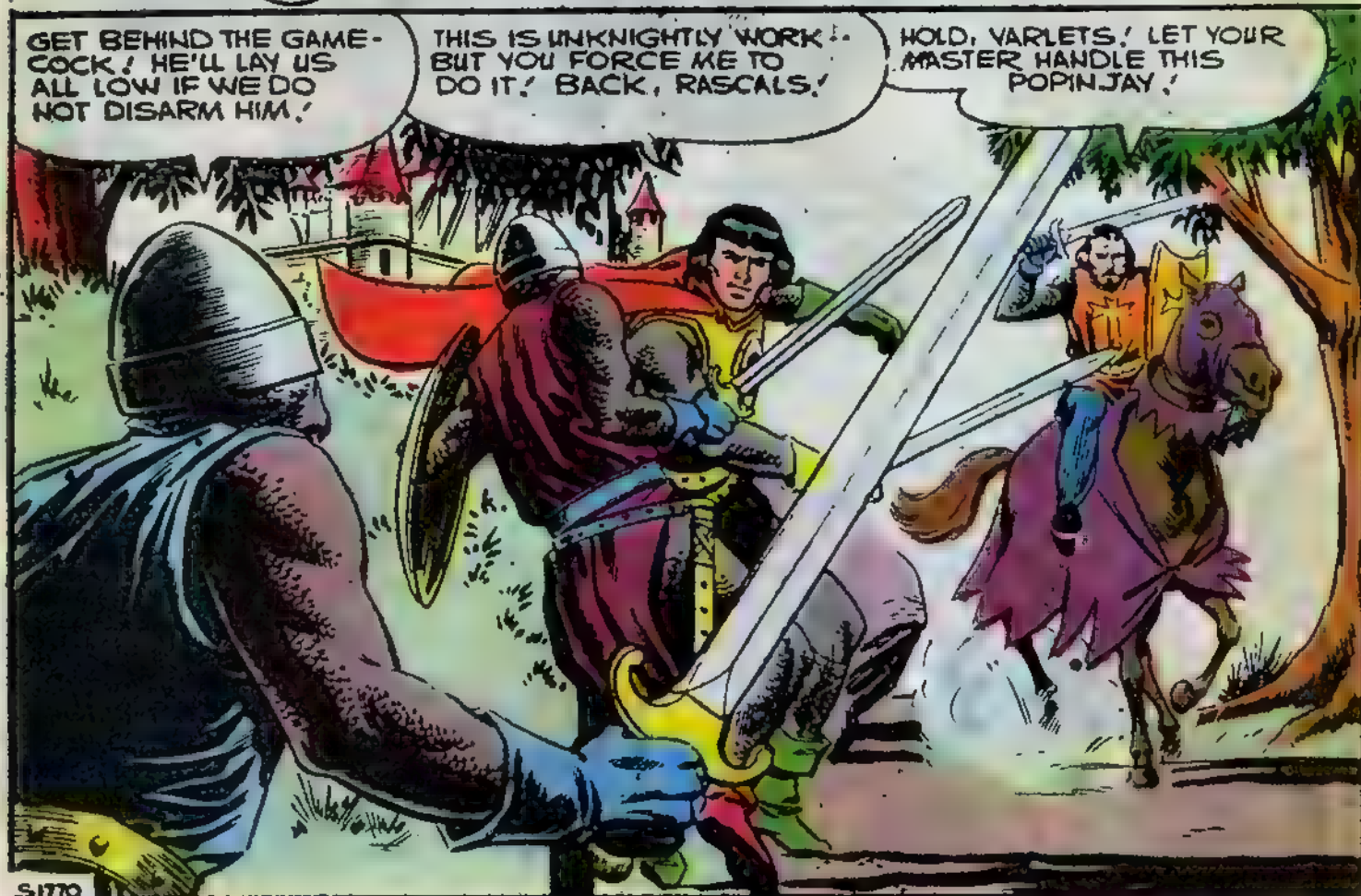
UNAWARE OF THE GODLY FEAST ABOVE, HERCULES AWAITS THE NEXT QUEST WHICH WILL TAKE HIM FAR INTO STRANGE PLACES IN HIS QUEST FOR ADMISSION TO THE FAMILY OF GODS DWELLING ON MOUNT OLYMPUS!



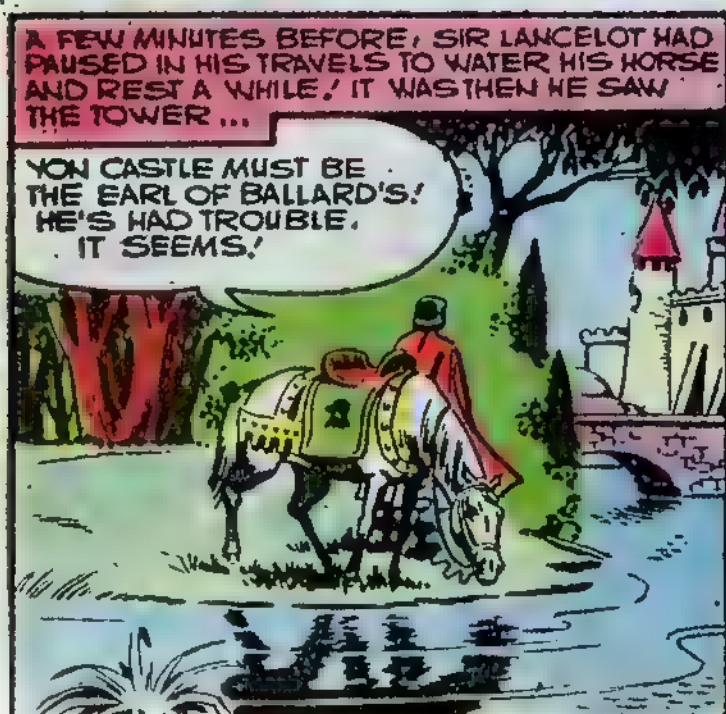
RING ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE WERE SWORN TO DEFEND THE WEAK AND FIGHT TYRANNY WHEREVER IT WAS FOUND. SIR LANCELOT, THE BRAVEST AND HANDSOMEST KNIGHT OF THEM ALL, OFTEN LEFT THE GAY COURT TO ROAM ENGLAND SEEKING EVIL TO DESTROY. IT WAS ON ONE OF THESE MISSIONS THAT HE FOUND THE BATTERED CASTLE OF BALLARD.

Sir Lancelot

and the HAUNTED TOWER



5170



I AM BALLARD'S FRIEND! I AM OF KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE! HOW IS THE EARL'S COMELY DAUGHTER?

SORE BESET, SIRE! SEE YOU TOWER? UNKNOWN TO THE TYRANT WHO HAS CAPTURED BALLARD'S CASTLE, THAT TOWER IS...

MORE PLOTTING? ONE SIDE, KNAVE! WHAT YOU WANT? WHO DO YOU SPY FOR?

AT PRESENT, I WANT TO TWIST YOUR NOSE, AND I SEEK THE MAN WHO HAS HARMED MY FRIEND, THE EARL OF BALLARD!

AND I'LL DO THE ONE! ME - THINKS THE SECOND WILL SEEK ME OUT!

OWWW! TURN LOOSE!

DICK, SIR KNIGHT! LOOK YONDER, IN THE CASTLE!

AT WHAT? I DON'T... ZOUNDS, THAT WAS CLOSE!

'TIS THE EARL'S DAUGHTER, THE LADY BARBARA!

I'LL HAVE WORD WITH MILADY LATER! NOW, THESE SCOUNDRELS DEMAND ATTENTION!

BACK, HOUNDS, YOUR MASTER ARRIVES! LET HIM SHOW HIS METTLE!

AGAINST ONE OF KING ARTHUR'S MUDDLE-HEADED SIMPLETONS, I'LL HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE!

WHO DO I FACE? I AM SIR LANCELOT!

I AM THE DUC DE FER, OF NORMANY! NOW, FOOL, EN GARDE!

AT THE CHALLENGE, SIR LANCELOT WHIRLED, BUT TOO LATE! DE FER'S KNAVE HAD ALREADY SWUNG...

WHEN HE RECOVERS, IF THE FOOL DOES, BID HIM TO BEGONE!

WHERE... I REMEMBER! THE ROGUE BEHIND ME!

AYE! LIKE TO BROKE YOUR HEAD! WE NEED YOU, SIR! TRY TO REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH!

SEE? MILADY BARBARA NEEDS HELP! ALAS, WE CANNOT REACH HER THERE!

I CAN! FETCH ME A ROPE, MAN!

SIR LANCELOT FACED THE TASK OF GETTING UP THE TOWER! THE PEASANT'S ROPE HELPED...



BE QUICK, SIR! THE DUC'S MEN WILL DISCOVER US!

LET THEM! THIS TIME THEY WILL NOT TAKE ME UNAWARE!

SIR LANCELOT OF THE ROUND TABLE AT YOUR SERVICE, MILADY. HOW IS YOUR FATHER? WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?

MY FATHER IS ILL HERE IN THIS SECRET CHAMBER. DE FER DOES NOT KNOW IT EXISTS!



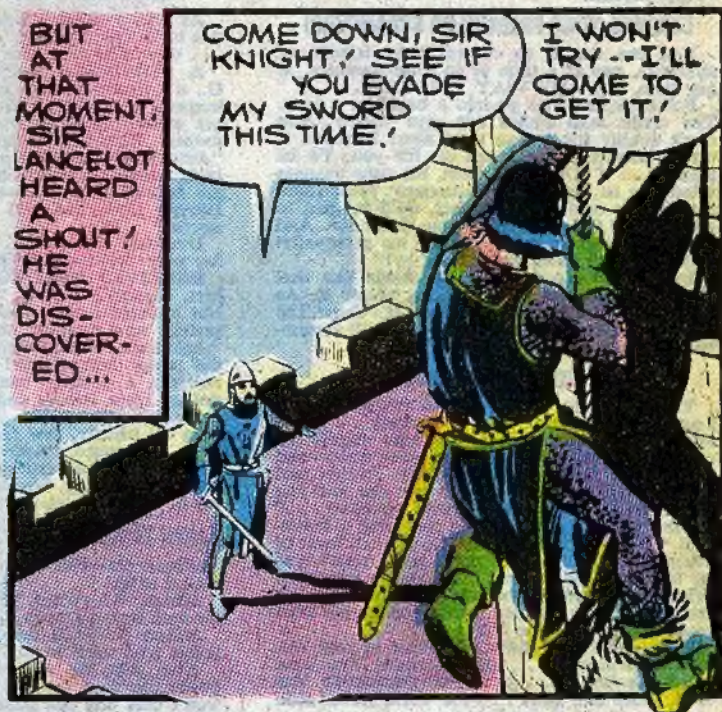
THE ONLY DOOR IS CONCEALED BEHIND THE DUCAL THRONE IN THE THRONE ROOM! HELP US, SIR LANCELOT!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, SIR LANCELOT HEARD A SHOUT! HE WAS DISCOVERED...

COME DOWN, SIR KNIGHT! SEE IF YOU EVADE MY SWORD THIS TIME!

I WON'T TRY--I'LL COME TO GET IT!



COME, SIRE! LET US FLEE!

NAY! I'LL BEARD THE IRON DUC ON HIS THRONE!



THE DUC'S ASTONISHED GUARDS HAD NO CHANCE TO STOP THE NOBLE KNIGHT...

WAIT, KNAVE!
YOU CANNOT...

ONE SIDE! I WILL
HARM NO ONE BUT
YOUR TYRANNOUS
MASTER!



I WILL DEFEAT KING
ARTHUR AS EASILY
AS I DO YOU AND FOR THE
SAME REASONS! YOU FIGHT
BY RULES THAT I DISDAIN!
THROW HIM IN THE
DUNGEON!



AYE, YOU'RE RIGHT! FETCH
HIM A SWORD AND ARMOR!
A WOODEN SWORD--FALSE
ARMOR! I WILL FIGHT HIM
ON KNIGHTLY TERMS!
HA. HA. HA!



YOU ARE A
FOOL! YOU
KNOW YOUR
FATE,
LANCELOT!

AYE, AND I KNOW YOURS
TOO, DE FER! YOU'LL
LEAVE ENGLAND IN
RAGS, DRIVEN BACK
TO YOUR OWN
FOUL NEST!



FOLK WILL SAY YOU FEARED
ME! WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER
TO BEST ME IN FAIR COMBAT?
WHERE IS YOUR
GUILT, MAN?



A FEW
MOMENTS
LATER--
ARMED
WITH A
JESTER'S
SWORD,
COVERED
BY
A
FOOL'S
ARMOR...

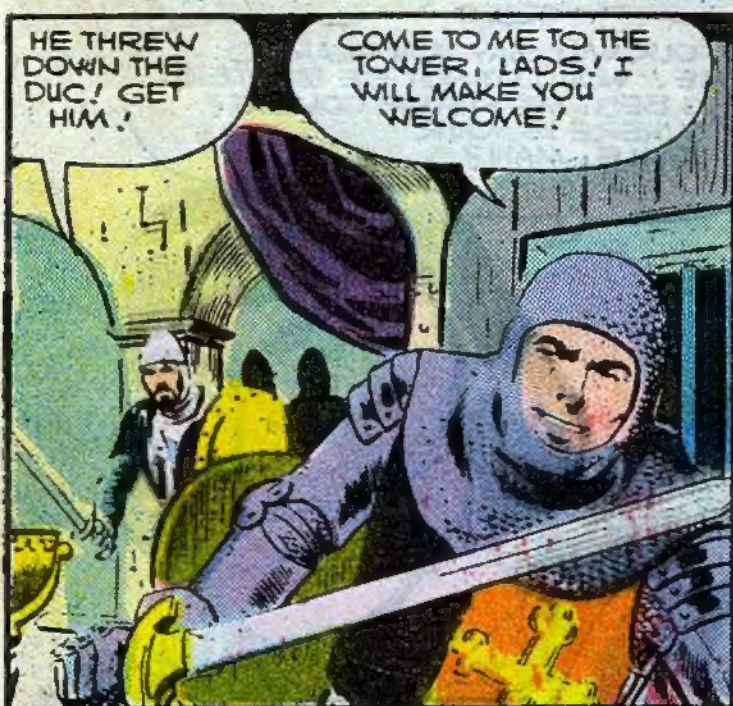
THEY WILL LAUGH!
LANCELOT! YOUR
ROUND TABLE
KNIGHTS WILL
BE MOCKED!

IF I AM
DEFEATED,
PERHAPS!
BUT EVEN
WITH **THIS**
I CAN
BEST YOU!





MY ARMOR IS PAPER-- BUT LIGHT, MAKING ME SUPPLE! YOU, DE FER, ARE HEAVILY BURDENED, BUT I CAN THROW YOU STILL!



HE THREW DOWN THE DUC! GET HIM!

COME TO ME TO THE TOWER, LADS! I WILL MAKE YOU WELCOME!



ONCE INSIDE THE TOWER, SIR LANCELOT BARRED THE DOOR, AND FOUND THE LADY BARBARA...

NOW YOU ARE A PRISONER TOO! WHAT SHALL WE DO?

NAUGHT SAVE WATCH ME KEEP THE DUC PRISONER IN HIS CASTLE WITH HIS OWN CROSSBOW! HE WILL SURRENDER, MILADY!

THERE WAS ONE ENTRANCE TO THE CASTLE... AND SIR LANCELOT'S CROSSBOW MADE THAT UN-USEABLE! MEANWHILE, THE PEASANT WHO HAD AIDED LANCELOT HAD GONE FOR HELP...



LANCELOT'S WON AFTER ALL! KING ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS ARE OUTSIDE THE WALLS! SEND OUT A FLAG OF SURRENDER!



LATER...

COME TO THE CASTLE AGAIN, SIR LANCELOT!

THANK YOU, LADY BARBARA, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE THE IRON DUC WHO OPPRESS THE WEAK! TILL THEY ARE GONE, I HAVE LITTLE TIME FOR PLEASURE!

END